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8. ON THE STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE GREAT GREY SHRIKE, *LANIUS EXCUBITOR* LINNAEUS IN MYSORE

The Great Grey Shrike, *Lanius excubitor* Linnaeus, is not known to occur in southern India south of Belgaum (Mysore) or the Krishna River in Andhra Pradesh and except for a couple of records of this species from Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh and a single sighting in Ceylon (Ali & Ripley 1972), nothing is known of its status or distribution in the southern India.

I found this shrike throughout Mysore State all round the year. One or two birds were invariably found in patches of dry, open scrub around Bangalore and were also seen in the open semi-arid country in the Raichur and Dharwar districts of northern Mysore. This shrike has also been observed in the Sandur taluk of Bellary district (Ghorpade, in press). Although the bird has not yet been found breeding, the above observations indicate that it is probably a resident in the Mysore plains, south to Bangalore, inhabiting dry open country, short thorny scrub and similar biotope.

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES,
BANGALORE-560 024,
December 21, 1972.

KUMAR D. GHORPADE

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